

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-7 are presently active in this case; Claim 2 was cancelled by a previous Amendment. The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,102 to Stone, III et al. (herein "Stone"), U.S. Design Patent No. D486,448 to Watanabe et al. (herein "Watanabe"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,027,381 to Lok (herein "Lok").

Considering first the discussion of Applicant's claim for foreign priority, Applicants assert that a certified copy of the priority document was timely furnished under PCT Rule 17 in the international phase. The Examiner should please consult with a Special Program Examiner in the Examiner's Technology Center pursuant to MPEP § 1896.

However, even without perfecting Applicant's claim for foreign priority, Applicants respectfully point out that Watanabe is not prior art to the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Watanabe was filed on December 18, 2002. The filing date of the present application was July 16, 2002. Because the filing date of the present application is before that of Watanabe, Watanabe is not prior art and a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) cannot be made with Watanabe as a reference. Thus, the rejection is not proper and should be withdrawn.

In the interest of continuing the progress of prosecution, Applicants address the remainder of the rejection made in the Office Action. Considering next the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), that rejection is traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 3 and 7 are amended to clarify the various components of the contact and the relationship among these components. As amended, Claims 1, 3 and 7 recite that the contact includes a board connecting portion, a horizontal strip, first and second

vertical strips, and a slant strip. The last paragraph bridging pages 8-9 of the original specification and Figure 8A disclose, as a non-limiting example, that the contact for a battery 5 includes a board connecting portion 5a, a horizontal strip 5b, first vertical strip 5c, a second vertical strip 5d, and a slant strip 5e, 15, 5f and 5g. Such a contact is unique, and is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

The prior art of record discloses a contact that includes a board connecting portion 104b connected to a horizontal strip 104a connected to a slant strip 104c. Stone discloses a contact that includes a slant strip 419 connected to a downward vertical strip 419 connected to a body 408 connected to another vertical strip 414 connected to a board connecting portion 415. Lok discloses a slant strip 14 connected to a horizontal strip 12. However, the prior art does not disclose the contact of the claimed invention with a structure of a horizontal strip and first and second vertical strips between a board connection portion and a slant strip. Therefore, the rejection of independent Claims 1, 3 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, is traversed.

Next, considering the Office Action's discussion of Lok, Applicants respectfully disagree that hole 20 in Lok is a notch hole at a boundary between the vertical strip and the horizontal strip. Lok teaches that the "hole 20" cited in the Office Action is a "solder opening 20...through the terminal portion 12 for facilitating soldering of the contact element 10" (col. 2, ln. 30-32). Therefore, the cited "hole 20" is a hole in the terminal portion that promotes an efficient and accurate surface mounting process by keeping the solder within the hole (col. 2, ln. 30-36), and does not facilitate bending of the contact. Additionally, Lok does not teach providing a contact such that a notch hole is formed at a boundary between the vertical strip and the horizontal strip as claimed (See page 13, lines 8-10 of the original specification). Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) cannot be

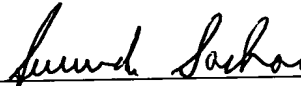
made with Lok as a reference. Therefore, the rejection of independent Claims 1, 3 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, is further traversed.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that each of Claims 1 and 3-7 patentably defines over the prior art of record recited by the Examiner, as well as the remaining references record. It is further submitted in view of the amendments noted above that no new matter has been introduced and no issues raising further considerations and/or the need for an additional search is required.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this application and entry of this amendment is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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